GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3254
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
SETTING UP OF NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT TRIBUNAL
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have been making provisions every year for the setting up of National Environment Tribunal but have not succeeded so far;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the time by which a final decision in this regard is likely to be taken and implemented?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIROMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) to (c) The Government is in the process of setting up the National Environment Tribunal under the National Environment Tribunal Act, 1995. The Act provides for strict liability for damages arising out of any accident occurring while handling any hazardous substances and for effective and expeditious disposal of cases arising from such accidents, with a view to giving relief and compensation for damages to person, property and the environment and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. The main difficulty in the setting up of the Tribunal has been the availability of suitable incumbent to head the Tribunal. The Ministry has been making budgetary allocations every year. Since the Tribunal has not been set up, the budgetary provisions could not be utilized.